

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Kindly rewrite Claims 1-10 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:*

1. (currently amended)      A method, comprising:
  - culturing a microorganism in a medium to produce and cause accumulation of a target substance in the medium; and
  - collecting the target substance,
  - wherein the microorganism is constructed from a parent strain of the microorganism having a respiratory chain pathway of high energy efficiency and a respiratory chain pathway of low energy efficiency as respiratory chain pathways, and
  - the microorganism is a mutant strain or a genetic recombinant strain having either one or both of the following characteristics:
    - (A) the activity of an enzyme of the respiratory chain pathway of high energy efficiency selected from the group consisting of SoxM type oxidase, bc1 complex, cytochrome bo-type oxidase, and NDH-1 is enhanced,
    - (B) the activity of an enzyme of the respiratory chain pathway of low energy efficiency selected from the group consisting of cytochrome bd type oxidase and NDH-II is deficient,
  - wherein the target substance is selected from the group consisting of an L-amino acid and a nucleic acid.
2. (currently amended)      The method according to Claim 1, wherein the activity of an enzyme of the respiratory chain pathway of high energy efficiency is enhanced by a method selected from the group consisting of by:
  - increasing a copy number of a gene coding for ~~an-said enzyme involved in the respiratory chain; or-and~~
  - ~~modification-modifying~~of an expression regulatory sequence of ~~the-said~~ gene.
3. (currently amended)      The method according to Claim 1, wherein the activity of an enzyme of the respiratory chain pathway of low energy efficiency is made deficient by disruption of a gene coding for an-said enzyme involved in the respiratory chain.
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said microorganism comprises enhanced SoxM type oxidase activity and deficient NDH-II activity.
7. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein an enzyme of the respiratory chain pathway of high energy efficiency is cytochrome bo type oxidase.
8. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said microorganism is at least one member selected from the group consisting of bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* and *Coryneform* bacterium.
9. (cancelled)
10. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~1~~8, wherein the microorganism is ~~at least one~~a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*.
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